



## Quarterly Briefing October 2018

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### **Executive Summary**

The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors, Operations Team, Task Force and Specialist/Working Groups continue working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the California Fire Service consistent with the organization's mission. The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Fire and Rescue Services Advisory / FIRESCOPE Board of Directors has approved and initiated implementation of new or revised FIRESCOPE documents during their October 10, 2018 meeting.

The dissemination and implementation of new or revised policy, procedural and developmental documents is critical to maintaining the integrity and effective execution of Cal OES Fire and Rescue Branch operations, the Incident Command System (ICS), Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS), and the State's Master Mutual Aid System. To that end, this "FIRESCOPE Quarterly Briefing" is designed to inform the California Fire Service and affected stakeholders of material changes, and to provide clarity as to the impact associated with new or recently revised FIRESCOPE documents.

### **Newly Approved FIRESCOPE Material**

The following is a list of new or recently revised FIRESCOPE documents with an accompanying summary statement for each item that details the impact to the State's Master Mutual Aid System, MACS or ICS.

1. Statewide Channel Load Survey: FIRESCOPE will be issuing a short survey through the



Region and Operational Areas to determine the fiscal and operational impact of increasing the channel capacity requirements for mobile and portable radios from 254 channels to a minimum standard load of 400 channels in accordance with MACS 441-1 Radio Communications Guidelines. The results from the survey will determine the feasibility and timeline of implementing the new standard.

This new standard has been recommended by the FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group and Task Force due to the number of channels commonly used by the California Mutual Aid System.

2. New FIRESCOPE Working Group Formation: Multiple initiatives have been introduced to the fire service and require analysis of the impact to Mutual Aid, MACS and ICS. The following FIRESCOPE Working Groups, with "Member Rosters" and corresponding "Plans of Work," have been formed to ensure that the appropriate coordination and development of products conform to the standardization of Mutual Aid, MACS and ICS utilized by the California Fire Service.

- Behavioral Health (Peer Support and CISM objectives)
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems)
- Evacuation Terminology - Law Enforcement/Fire Service
- CAD-to-CAD Interoperability
- Incident Communications Advisory Council
- FIRESCOPE Marketing and Messaging

Personnel or agencies, who have questions or are interested in participating in this important work, may contact any member of the Task Force. The contact information for FIRESCOPE Task Force members can be accessed using the following link: [FIRESCOPE Task Force Roster](#)

3. FIRESCOPE Website Main Menu: The “Peer Support/CISM” tab on the FIRESCOPE Website’s Main Menu has been changed to “Behavioral Health” to reflect industry standards and to create a broader umbrella under which firefighter behavioral health resources are made available. Visit [FIRESCOPE](#) and click on the “Behavioral Health” tab to access the available resources.



4. FIRESCOPE Analytics: As part of its efforts to evaluate the quality of FIRESCOPE products, the Board of Directors have begun to evaluate available data to ensure



consumer satisfaction. With the revision of the Field Operations Guide (FOG) ICS 420-1 in 2017, and upgrades to the now FREE mobile app, sales and usage data reveals that the FOG is being used both nationally and internationally. To view this latest report, visit [FIRESCOPE Analytics Report](#)

## 2018 California Fire Service Initiatives

The following updates are included to ensure the appropriate awareness and communication of key California Fire Service initiatives that have been, or are in the process of being, implemented:

1. Cal OES - California State Mutual Aid Pre-Incident Preparedness Guideline: Pre-positioning of resources has been implemented on multiple occasions during 2018 since the guidelines were implemented. Additional training shall be provided through the Regions and Operational Areas. Questions and feedback regarding this critical initiative is encouraged through your Operational and Region Area Coordinators. The California State Mutual Aid Pre-Incident Preparedness Guideline, published July 28, 2018, can be obtained by visiting the [Cal OES](#) website or by clicking on the following link: [Mutual Aid Pre-Incident Prep-Guide](#).

## Advisory Message

The information contained in this Briefing is intended to be widely shared among the California Fire Service, its Federal partners, as well as with other affected stakeholders. Agency administrators or responsible representatives should ensure that this material is thoroughly reviewed and communicated within their respective organizations. Any questions should be directed to FIRESCOPE Deputy Chief Jim Johnstone at [james.johnstone@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:james.johnstone@caloes.ca.gov) or (951) 312-8966.

Fire service professionals and the public are encouraged to follow FIRESCOPE on its social media sites and to visit <http://firescope.caloes.ca.gov> to learn more about the FIRESCOPE organization and to keep apprised of the latest product development, key initiatives, and what's new in the California Fire Service. The QR Code below provides access to documents referenced in the October 2018 Quarterly Briefing.



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